

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MBFR V 00373 171946Z

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ACTION ACDA-10

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AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

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S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0373

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: INFORMAL SESSION WITH EASTERN REPRESENTATIVES OF
JULY 15, 1975

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN THE JULY 15 INFORMAL SESSION OF THE
VIENNA TALKS, THE ALLIES WERE REPRESENTED BY THE BELGIAN
REP, FRG REP, AND US REP, AND THE EAST BY SOVIET REPS
KHLESTOV AND SMIRNOVSKY, CZECHOSLOVAK REP LAHODA, AND
POLISH REP STRULAK. BY AGREEMENT, AN EXPERT FROM EACH OF
THE PARTICIPATING DELEGATIONS WAS PRESENT.

2. DISCUSSION FOCUSED ON THE DEFINITIONS ISSUE, ALTHOUGH
THE SESSION CONCLUDED WITH A STATEMENT BY EACH SIDE GIVING
ITS ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS. KHLESTOV
DECLINED TO AGREE TO WESTERN SUGGESTIONS ON TWO

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 MBFR V 00373 171946Z

GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF A DEFINITIONS, THAT A DEFINITION SHOULD

BE COMPREHENSIVE AND THAT IT SHOULD DIVIDE ALL PERSONNEL INTO GROUND AND AIR FORCES. HE DECLINED TO DO THIS IN THE ABSENCE OF A WESTERN REACTION TO EASTERN SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TO DEAL WITH THE THREE TYPES OF FORCES WHOSE ALLOCATION IN THE WESTERN DEFINITION TO GROUND OR AIR FORCES HAS BEEN DISPUTED BY THE EAST. KHLESTOV SUGGESTED THAT PARTICIPANTS RETURN TO THE SUBJECT OF DEFINITIONS FOLLOWING THE BREAK.

3. BELGIAN REP LED OFF WITH WESTERN SUGGESTION THAT, FOR THE PURPOSES OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS, THERE SHOULD BE AN AGREED DEFINITION WHICH SHOULD BE WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE REDUCTION PROGRAMS OF EITHER SIDE. THE GOALS OF THIS DEFINITION SHOULD BE, FIRST, TO ASSURE THAT ALL ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY PERSONNEL IN THE UNIFORMED ARMED FORCES OF NATO AND THE WARSAW PACT IN THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS ARE COVERED BY THE DEFINITION AND THAT ONLY SUCH PERSONNEL ARE COVERED. THIS EXCLUDED RESERVISTS, CIVILIANS AND THE PERSONNEL OF OTHER UNIFORMED ORGANIZATIONS EQUIPPED WITH WEAPONS. THE SECOND GOAL SHOULD BE TO ALLOCATE ALL THESE MILITARY PERSONNEL BETWEEN AIR FORCES AND GROUND FORCES.

4. KHLESTOV AVOIDED COMMENT ON THESE WESTERN SUGGESTIONS AND REFRAINED FROM RESPONDING DIRECTLY TO WESTERN REPRESENTATIVES' QUESTIONS CONCERNING EXCLUSION OF CIVILIANS AND RESERVISTS. HE SAID A DEFINITION SHOULD BE COMPREHENSIVE, SHOULD PROVIDE FOR DETERMINING WHAT FORCES BELONG TO THE AIR FORCE AND WHAT FORCES BELONG TO THE GROUND FORCES, AND SHOULD COVER ARMAMENTS ALTHOUGH DOING SO WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE REDUCTION APPROACH OF EITHER SIDE. HE PROPOSED THAT (A) ALL HELICOPTER PERSONNEL, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THOSE "LEGALLY AND ORGANIZATIONALLY ASSIGNED TO THE AIR FORCE," BE ALLOCATED TO THE GROUND FORCES; (B) ALL GROUND- BASED TERRITORIAL AIR DEFENSE PERSONNEL (THAT IS, THE POLES AND THE CZECHOSLOVAKS) BE ASSIGNED TO THE AIR FORCES; AND (C) THAT FRG TACTICAL SURFACE-TO-SURFACE MISSILE PERSONNEL BE ASSIGNED TO THE GROUND FORCES. KHLESTOV SAID IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO DIVIDE THE CANADIAN FORCES ACCORDING TO FUNCTION AND TO ASSIGN THEM EITHER TO GROUND OR AIR FORCES. HE SAID THE EAST WAS WILLING TO CONSIDER PLACING ALL HELICOPTER PERSONNEL IN THE AIR FORCE, BUT OTHERWISE BACKED AWAY FROM HIS STATEMENTS IN THE INFORMAL

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 MBFR V 00373 171946Z

SESSION OF JULY 8 THAT, AS LONG AS SIMILAR FORCES ON BOTH SIDES WERE ASSIGNED EITHER TO AIR FORCES OR GROUND FORCES, IT DID NOT MATTER TO WHICH OF THESE TWO MAIN CATEGORIES THEY WERE ASSIGNED. KHLESTOV ALSO OFFERED TO AMEND THE EASTERN FORCE DEFINITION PRESENTED IN THE INFORMAL SESSION OF JULY 1 TO INCLUDE A STATEMENT THAT THE DEFINITION WAS INTENDED TO COVER ALL FORCES IN THE AREA.

5. US REP DESCRIBED THE WEAKNESS OF THE EASTERN DEFINITION METHOD, THE ENUMERATIVE APPROACH, WHICH WOULD REQUIRE LISTING ALL TYPES OF FORCES IN ORDER TO BE COMPREHENSIVE. HE SAID THAT AS REGARDS THE PRACTICAL EFFECTS OF THE EASTERN SUGGESTION TO ASSIGN THREE TYPES OF FORCES AS DESCRIBED ABOVE, THE EAST APPEARED TO BE ACCEPTING THE ILLUSTRATIVE SUGGESTION WEST HAD MADE EARLIER REGARDING SOME HELICOPTER PERSONNEL AND THE POLISH AND CZECHOSLOVAK GROUND-BASED TERRITORIAL AIR DEFENSE PERSONNEL. BUT SINCE THE EAST HAD NOT ACCEPTED WESTERN REQUIREMENTS MADE AT THAT TIME EITHER THEN OR AT PRESENT, THE WEST WAS NOT PURSUING THE MATTER FURTHER. US REP SAID DISCUSSION THUS FAR HAD MADE CLEAR THAT DISCUSSION OF DEFINITIONS WOULD BE MORE PRODUCTIVE IF IT WERE TAKING PLACE PARALLEL TO DISCUSSION OF DATA, THAT IT WAS NOT NECESSARY TO HAVE AGREEMENT ON DEFINITIONS IN ORDER TO EXCHANGE DATA, AND THAT, IN ANY EVENT, THE POSITIONS OF BOTH SIDES WITH REGARD TO DEFINITIONS WERE NOW SUFFICIENTLY CLEAR THAT IT SHOULD BE WHOLLY FEASIBLE TO EXCHANGE DATA. ACCORDINGLY, HE INVITED EAST TO DO THIS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE NEXT ROUND. IN RESPONSE, KHESTOV SAID EASTERN POSITION WITH REGARD TO DATA WAS WELL KNOWN AND REMAINED UNCHANGED.

6. POLISH REP STRULAK PRESENTED A LONG CRITICISM OF THE WESTERN POSITION, CLAIMING THAT THE WESTERN POSITION ON ASYMMETRY, PHASING, AND REFUSAL TO INCLUDE AIR FORCES AND NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS IN REDUCTIONS BLOCKED THE ROAD TO MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE AGREEMENTS. HIS ONLY NEW POINT WAS A STATEMENT THAT GOVERNMENTS AND PUBLIC OPINION WOULD BE GIVING INCREASED ATTENTION TO VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS FOLLOWING CONCLUSION OF CSCE. THE FRG REP

SUMMARIZED MAJOR POINTS OF THE ALLIED POSITION MADE DURING THE PRESENT ROUND. END SUMMARY.
REMAINDER OF REPORT FOLLOWS SEPTEL.RESOR

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